

that are on the line. We owe our soldiers better.

It is time for the President to admit that this war was a mistake. It is time for us to begin an orderly withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. It is time for President Bush to end his war.

PRIVATE PROPERTY PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. REHBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I introduced the Private Property Protection Act, a companion bill to legislation in the Senate designed to correct the erroneous decision made by the Supreme Court on June 23. That decision redefined the Constitution's fifth amendment. That decision, *Kelo v. City of New London*, was a slap in the face of homeowners, small businesses, and, frankly, Americans.

Ordinary private property owners stand to suffer from the corrupting influence this sweeping legislation will have because government officials, because government officials can aggressively use the powers of eminent domain purely for economic reasons.

Our legislation establishes two important standards that must be met before government decides to exercise its power and take and transfer private property.

The first standard is that eminent domain should only be used for public use, as guaranteed by the fifth amendment. The second is that this power should be reserved only for true public uses, not simply to provide private economic development so government can make more tax revenue.

Let us stop the abuse of eminent domain before it happens. I urge the Members of this body to support this very necessary piece of legislation.

LETTING MTBE MANUFACTURERS OFF THE HOOK

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, 2 months ago, the House narrowly voted down my amendment to the energy bill to hold MTBE manufacturers accountable for the groundwater contamination their product has produced. Many Members voted "no" because of some impending deal to address the issue once and for all. Now reports of the deal have leaked out. They are not pretty, and they will not address the MTBE contamination our constituents face.

This deal would provide full liability protection to the MTBE producers and establish an \$8 billion trust fund to address the contamination crisis. One big problem: the cleanup of MTBE contamination will cost between \$25 billion and \$33 billion. It could be as high

as \$85 billion, dwarfing the deal's clean-up fund.

Another problem: at least half of this fund comes from taxpayers. Mr. Speaker, why should taxpayers pay to clean up MTBE contamination? Manufacturers caused this problem, and they should clean it up. It is a deal written by industry for the industry.

No surprise that water districts, cities, and counties across the country do not support this deal. They are the people who have to deal with the contamination. I urge my colleagues to oppose the liability waiver of MTBE and any deal like this.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF COALITION PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY'S TRANSFER OF POWER

(Ms. GRANGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the Coalition Provisional Authority's transfer of power to the Iraqi people. Over the past 2 years, we have made great progress in Iraq. There are now 170,000 trained Iraqi security forces taking on increased security burdens. There are 2,400 schools that have been rehabilitated. Major roads and bridges have been rebuilt, and water and sewer treatment plants have been repaired.

On January 30, 8½ million Iraqis defied terrorist insurgents by coming out to vote for a free and democratic Iraq. That vote resulted in the election of the Iraqi National Assembly, which convened for the time in March.

The desire for freedom is universal, and the Iraqi people are no different from us. The 8½ million Iraqis who voted for democracy on January 30, and who are working tirelessly to rid their country of terrorist extremists, are evidence enough of their desire for freedom and democracy.

We must continue to support and pray for the Iraqis in their transition to democracy, and all the brave allied troops fighting and dying for Iraq and Afghanistan in the war on terror. Our continued support is critical to their success and our future security.

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO THE NATION

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, last night we watched a very sad event. The President of the United States came out here to try and convince the American people to support him yet again.

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The problem is that the President did not recognize while he was standing there that nobody trusts his judgment.

Nobody trusts the vice president's judgment, the man who says we are in

the last throes of the problems in Baghdad. Even Rumsfeld has come forward and said, "We are going to be there 12 years."

Now, Mr. Speaker, when the President comes and tries to sell us another 12 years and says things are going well, it just does not work. This was ill-conceived. It was ill-prepared for. It has been poorly executed by the management, not by the troops on the ground. They have done the best they could. But they are there because the President of the United States wanted them there.

This is George Bush's war. This is not a war on terrorism; this is a war of conquest by George Bush.

DOING WHAT IS REQUIRED IN IRAQ

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Winston Churchill said, "Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on a strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter."

Last night, the Commander-in-Chief addressed the Nation on the war in Iraq, laying out a clear strategy for victory built on the courage of our troops and the determination of the American people. The President reminded us that the war in Iraq is a central battlefield in the War on Terror that began the morning of September 11, and the President said, when Iraqi troops stand up, American forces will stand down.

President Bush reminded me of that great leader Winston Churchill, who also said, "It is not enough that we do our best; sometimes we have to do what is required."

Let us do what is required. Let us win the peace and democracy the good people of Iraq so richly deserve after decades of tyranny, and then, and only then, let us bring our troops home.

REPUBLICANS CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Washington Republicans cannot have it both ways on Social Security. Since the beginning of this year, President Bush and House Republicans have been telling everyone who will listen that Social Security is going broke. President Bush went so far as to take a field trip to West Virginia to show the American people that there really is not a trust fund where all the surplus Social Security funds are kept.

Of course, the President was being dishonest. The vault is filled with Treasury bonds that must be paid back to Social Security in the years to